

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 /018 W

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O 272235Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7192

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 3327

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: BEXP, GT

SUBJ: MAJOGAPROJECT: CHAMPERICO PORT DREDGING

REF: STATE 151206

1. EPNAC REFERRED TO IN REFTEL STANDS FOR EMPRESA PORTUARIA NACIONAFW DE CHAMPERICO (NATIONAL PORT COMPANY OF CHAMPERICO), ADDRESS 10A CALLE 3-31, ZONE 1, GUATEMALA CITY. TEL. 25447, 25457, 85216, 85402. CABLE ADDRESS IS EPNAC. IGN ACRONYM APPARENTLY USED BY GUATEL (TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY) AND HAS NO RELEVANCY IN THIS CASE.FR
2. CHAMPERICO IS ONE OF PACIFIC PORTS MENTIONED IN CABLE TRAFFIC FROM 1973-74 BUT THIS PROJECT HAS NO CONNECTION WITH PREVIOUS MESSAGES. CURRENT PROJECT RELATES TO EMERGENCY SITUATION ARISING FROM BUILD-UP OF SAN SILTAGE AT CHAMPERICO PORT WHICH HAS RESULTED IN HALTING OF ALL SHIPPING OPERATIONS THERE.

ONE SHIP IN FACT WAS STUCK IN SAND FOR THIRTEEN DAYS. GOG MUCH CONCERNED WITH THIS PROBLEM ESPECIALLY AS THERE STILL SIZEABLE AMOUNT OF COTTON TO BE EXPORTED AND CHAMPERICO IS NORMAL PORT OF OPERATIONS. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 28, GOG EXPECTING VISIT OF MEXICAN DELEGATION WHICH APPARENTLY WILL OFFER SERVICES OF DREDGING SHIP CURRENTLY BEING USED AT PUERTO MADEOR, CLOSE TO GUATEMALAN BORDER.

3. RE OTHER INFO REQUESTED REFTEL, U.S. FIRM SHOULD CONTACT FOLLOWING: CORONEL PILOTO AVIADOR LUIS URRUTIA DE LEON OF EPNAC. COPY OF ANY WRITTEN MESSAGES SHOULD BE SENT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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VICE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS ING.

JAIME CACERES KNOX, PALACIO NACIONAL, GUATEMALA CITY.
AMOUNT OF DREDGING ESTIMATED TO BE UNDERTAKEN IS 180,000
SQUARE METERS (AREA IS 200 METERS WIDE, 180 METERS LONG
BY 5 METERS DEEP).

4. COMMENT: PROBLEM AT CHAMPERICO CAN BE CONSIDERED
TO BE A EMERGENCY; U.S. COMPANIES SHOULD ATTEMPT
MAKE CONTACTS SOONEST. HOWEVER, JUNE 30 IS NATIONAL HOLIDAY
AND EPNAC OFFICIAL SAID NO ONE WOULD BE IN OFFICE THAT DAY.
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